
Editorial

The landscape of research in these hills we call home has altered perceptibly from the time of the Journal's maiden issue. With every succeeding volume, the editors endeavour to unfold vistas of knowledge and information the intrepid scholar has tackled in a formalised, systematic investigation demonstrating sound theoretical and/or methodological underpinning in their chosen field. Our contributors continue to establish facts, reach new conclusions and keep the spirit of inquiry alive and thriving with original, relevant and insightful works.

Notwithstanding its geographical remoteness or the cultural and psychological disconnect the Northeast is subject to the immense diversity of its ethnic communities, cultural practices, belief systems, languages and its unique flora and fauna make the region a researcher's paradise. While the main thrust of the Journal is to continue to provide a platform to promote research activities and critical writing for scholars from the region, we welcome papers reflecting the broad and diverse field of studies, disciplines and schools of knowledge in academia outside of the Northeast.

Nature in her varied forms and elements as a strong spiritual entity inextricably linked with Naga spiritual cosmology is the focus of an interesting ecological discourse on the subject through the study of oral narratives and select works by Naga writers. From challenges and opportunities to biochemical research in Parkinson's disease to a study on ethnobotanical medicinal plants exhibiting nutritional values; from Dr B. R. Ambedkar's contribution to federalism enshrined in the Constitution of India to a reflection of political participation for sustainable democracy through communitization of electricity management in Nagaland, the papers in the current issue (Volume 7) reflect the breadth of thought in the humanities, social sciences, life sciences and physical sciences. We feature an article in the Ao Naga language which traces the birth/origin and growth of written Ao literature with its inception from the American missionary era in the latter nineteenth century till the present time.

With fresh insights being offered from ever-widening varied genre of studies, the Journal's robust multidisciplinary approach is a testament to its integrative and engaging vibrancy.

India's Look East Policy introduced in the early 1990s has become the Act East Policy under the present Central Government. The policy looks for greater economic engagement and political partnership with the countries of the East Asian and Southeast Asian region. Pivotal to this policy is the Northeast

which occupies a strategic location as a bridge between mainland India and other Southeast Asian nations. The stakeholders of the Act East Policy, the indigenous communities of the Northeast must be alert to the long term implications and impact on the region. Questions arise – whether the huge potential of economic benefits will accrue to the Northeastern societies or bypass them; whether the peripheral states will ever gain centerstage developmentally and whether by opening the door to increased trade, greater connectivity, infrastructural expansion and economic uplift we shall invite a heightened influx of migrant labour that may threaten to swamp the ethnic communities leading to greater tensions, sharper schisms and instability in an already fragile situation.

It becomes imperative for scholars from the region to engage, participate and vigorously interrogate the objectives of the policy, to critically examine whether its long term benefits will outweigh and bridge the multiple fault lines of ethnic conflicts, insurgencies, illegal immigration and resource extraction or exploitation or whether the existing ethnic, political and economic divisions will widen. The questions are profound and numerous the answers uncertain. The scope for research is thus immense.

The Editorial Board is delighted to inform that the Fazl Ali College Journal has been listed in the UGC-approved list of journals. We are grateful to the UGC authorities for the recognition. We remain indebted to the contributors, the reviewers and particularly our chief subscribers, the faculty of Fazl Ali College whose support and encouragement are an impetus to us to serve the cause of *scientia maxime fovit* or knowledge dissemination.